

Message Text

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ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 IO-12 SSO-00 CCO-00

NSCE-00 /096 W

----- 078735

R 160940 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3604

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

CDR JCRC NKP THAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2898

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: JCRC- SEARCH FOR MIA' S IN LAOS

REF: (A) STATE 065543

(B) VIENTIANE 2708

1. WE APPRECIATE RECEIVING INFORMATION FOR CONSIDERATION BY LAO PARTIES TO FACILITATE SEARCH FOR MIA' S IN LAOS (REFTEL A) AND WILL MAKE IT AVAILABLE TO RLG NEGOTIATORS IN HOPE THAT IT WILL BE CONSIDERED IN NEGOTIATING THE MILITARY PORTIONS IN THE PROTOCOL IMPLEMENTING VIENTIANE FEBRUARY 1973 AGREEMENT.

2. HOWEVER, ON BASIS OF OUR EXPERIENCE WITH BOTH RLG AND LPF NEGOTIATORS, WE DOUBT THAT EITHER WILL AGREE TO INCORPORATE THE PRECISE LANGUAGE SUGGESTED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN THE FINAL PROTOCOL. DEPARTMENT IS ALREADY AWARE OF ARTICLE SEVEN OF RLG MILITARY DRAFT PROTOCOL, WHICH INCLUDES MANY POINTS WE HAD MADE TO RLG PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REFTEL. IT WILL NOT BE EASY
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FOR RLG TO CHANGE SIGNIFICANTLY ITS PROPOSAL ONCE IT HAS BEEN TABLED. FURTHER COMPLICATING THE PROBLEM IS FACT THAT LPF DRAFT PROTOCOL (REFTTEL B) MAKES NO MENTION OF MIA'S NOR OF COOPERATION WITH OTHER BODIES TO CLARIFY THE FATE OF THOSE MISSING IN ACTION. LPF PROTOCOL ALSO MAKES IT CLEAR COMMUNISTS DON'T WANT ANY NON- COMMUNIST INFLUENCE OR PRESENCE IN THEIR ZONE.

3. WHILE WE WILL BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF RLG NEGOTIATORS POINTS SUGGESTED IN REFTTEL (A) , WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD LIMIT OURSELVES TO THIS ACTION. ALTHOUGH A REMARKABLY STABLE CEASEFIRE HAS BEEN ACHIEVED, THE LPF SEEMS TO BE DELAYING SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS ON IMPLEMENTING OTHER ASPECTS OF THE VIENTIANE AGREEMENT. IT MAY TAKE WEEKS, AND PERHAPS MANY MONTHS, BEFORE A PROTOCOL, IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS FOR MIA'S, IS AGREED UPON BY THE TWO SIDES. THUS, RATHER THAN GEAR OUR INITIATIVES TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VIENTIANE AGREEMENT BY THE TWO LAO PARTIES, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD PROPOSE TO LPF NOW THAT THE SEARCH FOR AMERICAN MIA'S SHOULD BE DISASSOCIATED FROM THE STRICTLY BILATERAL LAO NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNED WITH MILITARY AND POLITICAL QUESTIONS.

4. WE THINK WE SHOULD BUILD ON SENATOR BROOKE'S RECENT PROPOSAL TO LPF CALLING FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A BODY OUTSIDE THE PROTOCOL NEGOTIATIONS TO CLARIFY FATE OF MIA'S. TOWARD THAT END, WE WILL TRY TO SEE PHOUN SIPRASEUTH, THE SENIOR LPF NEGOTIATOR IN VIENTIANE, AND FIVE HIM AN AIDE MEMOIRE SPELLING OUT THE SENATOR'S PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH SUCH A BODY. WE WOULD ARGUE THAT, SINCE ACCORDING TO THE PATHET LAO, ARTICLE FIVE OF THE VIENTIANE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT AS FAR AS AMERICAN PW'S ARE CONCERNED, (THE LPF CLAIM THERE ARE NO MORE AMERICAN PW'S IN LAOS), THE NEXT STOP- THAT OF SEARCHING FOR MIA'S- SHOULD BEGIN RIGHT AWAY. WE WOULD ASK PHOUN WHETHER LPF DELEGATION VIENTIANE HAS RECEIVED REPLY FROM SAM NEUA TO SENATOR BROOKE'S PROPOSAL, WHICH BOTH PHETRASY PROMISED TO TRANSMIT TO SAM NEUA. IF NO REPLY HAS BEEN RECEIVED YET, WE WOULD LEAVE AIDE MEMOIRE URGING PHOUN TO QUERY SAM NEUA AGAIN. WE WOULD ALSO CITE FPJMT
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PROTOCOL IN VIETNAM WHERE BOTH DRV AND PRG APPEAR TO

BE COOPERATING WITH U. S. AND GVN IN RESOLVING FATE
OF MIA' S. WE WOULD URGE THAT A BODY TO WORK ON MIA' S
IN LAOS BE ESTABLISHED IMMEDIATELY, LEAVING
COMPOSITION OF THIS BODY AND ITS GUIDELINES TO BE
WORKED OUT LATER. WHAT WE NEED IS APPROVAL BY SAM
NEUA FOR PROPOSAL THAT AMERICAN MIA QUESTION BE
SEPARATED FROM REST OF THE LAO NEGOTIATIONS. WE MIGHT
ADD ORALLY THAT WE WOULD INTERPRET AFFIRMATIVE REPLY
BY SAM NEUA AS INDICATION OF PATHET LAO " GOOD WILL",
SENTIMENT LPF TOLD US WAS REASON FOR RELEASE OF
POW' S IN HANOI ON MARCH 28.

5. WE PREFER TO SEE PHOUN RATHER THAN SOTH, BECAUSE
PHOUN HAS MORE INFLUENCE AND WE DO NOT WANT TO LEAVE
ANY STONE UNTURNED IN EFFORT TO GET RESULTS ON THIS
IMPORTANT ISSUE. SINCE PHOUN IS PRESENTLY IN LUANG
PRABANG, ATTENDING LAO NEW YEAR CELEBRATION, THIS
DEMARCHE WILL HAVE TO AWAIT HIS RETURN TO VIENTIANE
THIS WEEK.
GODLEY

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973VIENTI02898
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS GODLEY
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730444/aaaaipls.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION DPW
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 65543, 73 VIENTIANE 2708
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Dec-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <22 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980121
Subject: JCRC- SEARCH FOR MIA' S IN LAOS
TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, LA
To: DPW
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005